

RESOURCES FOR GREAT ACTIVITIES

Seminar M3 Lesson Plan

Scope: According to cadet surveys, a majority of squadrons have dull meetings. That's a problem because squadron meetings are vital in keeping cadets excited about CAP. The answer is to provide lots of hands-on activities on Tuesday night. But where do you start? Where do you find great hands-on activities? That's the purpose of this seminar.

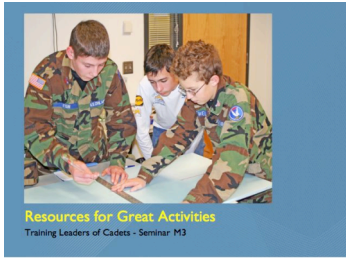
Format: Guided Discussion

Duration: 30 minutes

Objectives:

1. Defend the idea that cadet meetings need to be exciting and have hands-on activities
2. Identify several educational or activity resources available to support each element in the Cadet Program
3. Discuss best practices for using those resources

Resources: "Cadet Programs Resource Guide." *Also, try to have a copy of each resource listed on the chart below available for "show and tell" purposes.*



STARTING POINT

Introduce yourself and state the seminar's topic.

ATTENTION & MOTIVATION

Listen to what two cadets in two different squadrons have to say about CAP:

"Our squadron meetings are boring. All we do is hup-hup in the parking lot. If we have a class, it's always a boring lecture. Attendance is a problem. Discipline is a problem. Morale is an even bigger problem."

"Our squadron meetings are great. We're always doing something hands-on. You don't want to miss a meeting. Our problem is we have so many choices of great things to do during the meeting. It's a good problem to have."

OVERVIEW

If your cadets are like most, they want to participate in more hands-on activities. They want weekly squadron meetings to be more than drill and boring lectures. But where do you start? Where do you find great hands-on activities? That's the purpose of this seminar.

LESSON PROCEDURE

Textbooks, Activity Guides, Handbooks & More

What resources are available to support squadron activities?

Leadership
Aerospace
Fitness
Character

1. Draw a table on the whiteboard. To start, label only the heading information (the words shown in **in bold** on the table below).
2. Ask students to name an educational / activity resource that supports each program element. Work through one program element at a time.
3. Consider each resource one at a time. Have the students indicate what type of resource it is: Textbook, Activity Guide, Handbook, or Other.
4. After identifying a resource, ask the students to summarize what that resource is, what it can be used for, and invite them to share their best practices for using it.
5. Show the resource to the class (if a copy is available). Pass it around for all to browse through.
6. Continue developing a list of resources, taking a moment to discuss each, one at a time. Work through the leadership element, then the aerospace element, etc.
7. It is not critical that the students catalog each resource exactly as it is shown in the table below. What's most important is that they identify most of the publications and come to the conclusion that they have a lot of resources available for conducting hands-on activities during squadron meetings.
8. Refer to the "Cadet Programs Resource Guide" for a synopsis of each resource, if you are not familiar with it.

PROGRAM ELEMENT	RESOURCE	RESOURCE TYPE
Leadership	Leadership for the 21 st Century	Textbook
	USAF Drill & Ceremonies DVD	Activity Guide
	AFJROTC Drill Instruction Guides	Activity Guides
	Cadet Staff Handbook	Handbook
	Cadet Great Start	Activity Guide
	Staff Duty Analysis Guide	Other
Aerospace	Aerospace Dimensions	Textbook
	Aerospace Dimensions Student Guide	Other
	Aerospace Dimensions Leader Guide	Activity Guide
	Journey of Flight	Textbook
	Orientation Flight Syllabus	Activity Guide
	Model Rocketry	Activity Guide
	Satellite Tool Kit / Space Module	Activity Guide
	Air Force Association Grants	Other
Aerospace Excellence (AEX)	Activity Guide	
Fitness	Cadet Physical Fitness Program	Activity Guide
Character	Flight Time: Values for Living	Activity Guide
	Unit Honor Guard Program	Activity Guide
	National Cadet Competition	Activity Guide
	Mentoring	Handbook
	Respect on Display	Handbook

SUMMARY

We've discussed 20 or more resources today. On the "Cadet Program's Resource Guide" included in your student materials, you'll find a synopsis of each of those tools. The Resource Guide tells you what each publication does, and how to order one.

CONCLUSION

Squadrons have access to a full library of activity guides, handbooks, textbooks, and other tools. There's no reason for squadron meetings to be boring, if you become familiar with some of these resources and use them on Tuesday nights.